



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

DENISE MOLINA CAPERS
DIRECTOR

**Somerville Commission for Women
Policy Committee**

Friday, February 11, 2022

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

In attendance: Stephanie Galaitsi (SCW), Arlen Weiner (SCW), Lauren Spengler (City of Somerville RSJ Commissions Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Motion to call meeting to order at 9:11am by Stephanie. Seconded by Arlen.

2. New Business

- Purpose of Committee/Goals

Review of last year challenges for SCW. Goal of the committee is to find out what policies we can influence? Are we asking the right questions? “What” and “who” is committee and “how” is commission. Tracking policies and proposed policies and having a seat at the table for advocating for what we want. Talk to City Council Members.

- Policy Items for Discussion: Parental Leave

The question is: why is every municipality choose not to participate in this law? (Outline the law) Do employees want to opt in? Women’s Commission should look into. How do we strategize this? Action items for members.

3. Late Items

- Sidewalk plowing

5 emails sent from moms’ group – testimonies. Ask Women’s Commission permission to talk to DPW? Is there a gender lens they are looking at it through an assessment? Pose it to the group – Lauren & Stephanie or more people or whole group?

- Other ideas:

Health curricula – healthy relationships, consent-based sex ed – make connections with the schools. Action Item: contact the school and request annual copy of the sex-ed curricula for review – bring this to the Commission for review.

Policy Committee meeting cadence: Thursday at 3:30pm, the 2nd Thursday of the month.

4. Adjourn

Arlen made a motion to adjourn at 9:55. Stephanie seconded.

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